REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 20 being independent. Claims 21-22 have been canceled by this amendment, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 1-20 are allowed.

Election/Restriction

The Examiner states on page 2 that claims 21-22 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed, and therefore withdrew claims 21-22 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

First, Applicants note that claims 21-22 have been deleted from the present application by this amendment and will be filed in a divisional application. Thus, the cancellation of these claims do not narrow the scope of any of the allowed pending claims.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the Election/Restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, this application appears to be in condition for allowance and the Examiner is, therefore, requested to reexamine the application and pass the claims to issue.
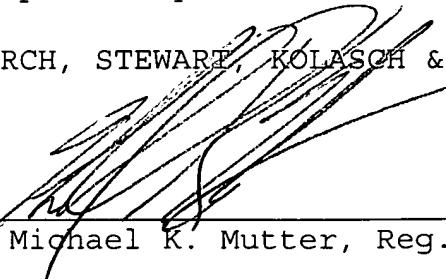
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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19